
Abstract

Examination of the Latin Influence on Verb Word Orders in Main Clauses in the Old English *Orosius*

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Verb-second word order is theoretically assumed to be derived by the movement of main verbs in a verb phrase (VP) to the head of a complementiser phrase (CP). Old English (OE) is a verb-second language as are several other Germanic languages. As evident in Modern German main clauses, the typical verb-second word order is very rigid. While the typical word order in the OE main clause is subject to the verb-second word order, a few exceptional word orders such as verb-final are observed especially in Early Old English (EOE) literature. The extent to which Latin influenced the verb word orders in EOE prose remains controversial. One hypothesis is that a word order such as verb-final was innovated through the influence of Latin because several translations of Latin literature to OE were conducted by the Alfredian circle in the ninth century. The other hypothesis is that EOE, specifically the Wessex dialect, internally developed such a word order for a reason. This paper examines a small section of the OE *Orosius*, which was translated by the Alfredian circle, to clarify the influence of Latin on OE word orders. However, the investigation was unable to verify the direct influence of Latin because the main clauses' word orders in the OE *Orosius* seldom resembled their counterparts in the original Latin version.